## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 ABF-01 /094 W

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P 202021Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1110

**UNCLAS BOGOTA 3608** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, CO

SUBJ: NEW EXCHANGE REGIME ESTABLISHED IN COLOMBIA

- 1. AS OF APRIL 20 A NEW EXCHANGE SYSTEM WILL BE ADOPTED IN COLOMBIA WHICH WILL RESULT IN A VERY SLIGHT REVALUATION OF THE PESO IN RELATION TO DOLLARS EARNED FROM COFFEE, SERVICES OR OBTAINED THROUGH DEBT. THE NEW REGIME WILL RESULT IN ONE EXCHANGE RATE FOR MINOR EXPORTS AND ANOTHER RATE FOR ALL OTHER DOLLAR SOURCES.
- 2. PERSONS EXCHANGING DOLLARS FROM ANY SOURCE OTHER THAN NON-COFFEE EXPORTS WILL RECEIVE A 180 DAY NEGOTIATIABLE CERTIFICATE OF EXCHANGE. THE CERTIFICATE CAN BE NEGOTIATED ON THE STREET OR SOLD TO THE CENTRAL BANK WITH A 10 PER CENT DISCOUNT. AFTER THIRTY DAYS THE CERTIFICATE CAN BE SOLD TO THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC WITHOUT DISCOUNT AT THE PESO PRICE IN EFFECT ON THE DAY THE CERTIFICATE IS SOLD. PERSONS EARNING DOLLARS FROM MINOR EXPORTS MAY OBTAIN PESOS IMMEDIATELY AT THE OFFICIAL RATE.
- 3. THE MEASURE WAS CALLED A REVALUATION BY THE PRESS AND HAILED AS A STRONG ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURE BUT THE EXCHANGE EFFECT OF THE MEASURE WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANT. THE MEASURE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL SAVE THIRTY DAYS OF DOLLAR INFLOW KEEPING ABOUT 4.5 BILLION PESOS OUTOF THE ECONOMY FOR 30 DAYS. HOWEVER THE REVALUATION AND MULTIPLE EXCHANGE EFFECT OF THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE NO MORE THAN THE OPPORTUNITY COST OF FUNDS OR ABOUT TWO TO TWO AND A HALF PERCENT A MONTH. IN OTHER WORDS, IN THE STREET THE PRICE OF THE EXCHANGE CERTIFICATES SHOULD SETTLE INTO A PRICE TWO TO TWO AND A HALF

PERCENT LESS THAN THE OFFICIAL RATE BECAUSE THIS IS THE COST OF HOLDING ON TO THE CERTIFICATES FOR ONE MONTH. DREXLER

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am **Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BOGOTA03608
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D770138-1026 Format: TEL

From: BOGOTA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770440/aaaabhzv.tel

Line Count: 65 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 21a52aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** 

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2756592 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NEW EXCHANGE REGIME ESTABLISHED IN COLOMBIA

TAGS: EFIN, CO To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/21a52aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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